

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03  
SS-15 NSC-05 TRSE-00 CPR-01 /064 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:DEHENDERSON  
APPROVED BY ARA/CAR:TJC HEAVNER  
EB/AN:A RIMAS (DRAFT)  
ARA/CAR:JE THYDEN

-----020045Z 018741 /14

R 011615Z APR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071749

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:TK, EAIR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF TURKS AND CAICOS CHIEF MINISTER MCCARTNEY

1. CHIEF MINISTER JAMES MCCARTNEY, GOVERNMENT OF TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS (GTCI), VISITED DEPARTMENT MARCH 28 TO DISCUSS AIR SERVICE BETWEEN U.S. AND TCI. CHIEF MINISTER WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY LIEM MCGUIRE, MINISTER OF TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT, JAMES BASTION, ATTORNEY FOR SOUTHEAST AIRLINES, AND BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICER.

2. MCCARTNEY AND MCGUIRE EXPOUNDED AT LENGTH ON PROBLEMS CAUSED BY ALLEGED FAILURE OF MACKEY INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES TO GIVE ADEQUATE SERVICE AND BY CAB UNWILLINGNESS TO GRANT IMMEDIATE PERMISSION FOR SOUTHEAST TO PROVIDE AIR TAXI SERVICE TO TCI. MCCARTNEY COMPLAINED OF MACKEY'S REFUSAL TO COOPERATE WITH LOCAL TOURIST INTERESTS,

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FREQUENT MECHANICAL FAILURES, DELAYS AS LONG AS SEVEN HOURS, AND INCONVENIENT SCHEDULES. ACCORDING TO MCCARTNEY, LACK OF REGULAR SERVICE SINCE GTCI REFUSED TO RENEW MACKEY'S LICENSE HAS CREATED AN ECONOMIC CRISIS IN THE ISLANDS, WHICH ARE HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON TOURISM.

3. BOTH MCCARTNEY AND MCGUIRE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH

PACE OF CAB CONSIDERATION OF SOUTHEAST APPLICATION.  
MCCARTNEY SAID HE WOULD REMAIN IN WASHINGTON UNTIL HE RECEIVED AN ADEQUATE RESPONSE FROM CAB. BASTION, WHO SHOWED FAMILIARITY WITH CAB PROCEDURES, EXPLAINED THAT DELAY WAS CAUSED BY MACKEY'S FILING A FORMAL OBJECTION TO SOUTHEAST APPLICATION.

4. MACKEY IS OPPOSING SOUTHEAST'S APPLICATION ON GROUNDS THAT MACKEY WAS ALLEGEDLY SUBJECTED TO UNFAIR AND VINDICTIVE TREATMENT BY TCI AUTHORITIES. THEY ALLEGE THAT CERTAIN OFFICIALS HAVE DEMANDED PAY-OFFS FROM MACKEY. WHEN THEIR APPROACH WAS REBUFFED, THESE UNNAMED OFFICIALS ALLEGEDLY FOMENTED A CAMPAIGN TO OUST MACKEY FROM TCI. MACKEY CLAIMS THAT AT NO TIME PRIOR TO THE ALLEGED PAY-OFF DEMAND WAS THERE ANY INDICATION THAT THE LOCAL POPULATION WAS DISSATISFIED WITH THE QUALITY OF SERVICES BEING OFFERED BY MACKEY. THE AIRLINE ADMITS THAT OPERATING DIFFICULTIES HAVE RESULTED IN DELAYS AT TIMES, BUT SAYS THAT ANY OPERATOR, INCLUDING SOUTHEAST, WOULD HAVE FACED SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES. FURTHERMORE, VARIOUS AVIATION SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT THE PRIMARY BUSINESS OF SOUTHEAST IS LEASING AIRCRAFT, NOT OPERATING AN AIRLINE. ACCORDINGLY, THERE MAY BE SOME QUESTION AS TO THE FITNESS AND ABILITY OF THE COMPANY TO PROVIDE SCHEDULED SERVICES TO TURKS AND CAICOS.

5. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN TCI, INCLUDING DEGREE OF DEPENDENCE ON AIR TAXI SERVICE AND MACKEY'S ABILITY TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE CONFIDENTIAL

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SERVICE.

6. MCCARTNEY ALSO COMPLAINED THAT HE WAS NOT ACCORDED SUITABLE TREATMENT ON ARRIVAL AT BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. U.S. CUSTOMS INFORMED DEPARTMENT MCCARTNEY WAS FRISKED BECAUSE, DESPITE HIS CLAIM TO BE FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, HE WAS TRAVELING ON STANDARD BRITISH PASSPORT WITH B-1 VISA, HAT AND POCKETS WERE BULGING SUSPICIOUSLY, AND CUSTOMS HAD NOT BEEN NOTIFIED OF MCCARTNEY'S ARRIVAL.

7. DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS THAT EMBASSY DISCUSS WITH UK HICOM IN NASSAU PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING APPROPRIATE DIPLOMATIC VISA FOR MCCARTNEY AND ADVANTAGES OF PRIOR NOTIFICATION THROUGH EMBASSY OF HIS ARRIVAL IN U.S.  
CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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